

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 *pub*  
2 *0211*  
3 1. A pallet comprising:  
4 a top deck member having an upper surface and a lower surface defined by a  
5 plurality of first cross-rib members; and  
6 a bottom deck member having an upper portion and a plurality of runners  
7 extending downwardly from the upper portion in a unitary construction, the upper  
8 portion having an upper surface defined by a plurality of second cross-rib members  
9 corresponding generally to the first cross-rib members and attached thereto to securely  
10 attach the top deck and bottom deck to each other, the runners<sup>28</sup> extending transversely  
11 across the pallet in a generally parallel orientation and having a lower surface, the  
12 runners further having a plurality of upright members and support members extending  
13 between the upright members and integrally formed therewith in a unitary  
construction, wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members extend from the  
upper surface of the bottom deck to the lower surface of the runners.

1 *Bl*  
2 *Emx*  
3 2. The pallet of claim 1, wherein the support member has an upper support surface  
4 and a lower support surface, wherein one of the upper support and lower support  
5 surfaces is defined by a plurality of rib members.

1 3. The pallet of claim 2, wherein the lower support surface is defined by a plurality  
2 of rib members.

1 4. The pallet of claim 1, wherein the first and second cross-rib members are  
2 attached to each other by a welding process.

1 5. The pallet of claim 1, wherein the bottom surfaces of the upright<sup>34</sup> members and  
2 support members<sup>41</sup> are co-planar.

1 6. The pallet of claim 1, further comprising at least one reinforcement member<sup>111</sup>  
2 extending between the top deck and bottom deck.

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7. The pallet of claim 7, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the top deck and the upper surface of the bottom deck have at least one channel formed therein for receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

1 8. A pallet comprising:

2 a first deck member having an upper surface arranged for receiving a load  
3 thereupon, and a lower surface having a first plurality of cross-ribs; and

4 a second deck member having a horizontally disposed upper portion with a  
5 lower surface, and an upper surface defined by a second plurality of cross-ribs  
6 corresponding generally to and mating with the first plurality of cross-ribs, the second  
7 deck further having a lower portion integrally formed with the upper portion to form  
8 a unitary construction therewith, the lower portion extending downwardly from the  
9 upper portion and defined by a plurality of generally parallel runners for supporting  
10 the pallet, the runners spaced apart from each other to define openings therebetween,  
11 each runner having a plurality of post members and at least one support member  
12 extending between the bottom of the post members for interconnecting the posts  
13 members in a unitary construction.

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9. The pallet of claim 8, wherein the support member has an upper support surface and a lower support surface, wherein one of the upper support and lower support surfaces is defined by a plurality of rib members.

1 10. The pallet of claim 9, wherein the lower support surface is defined by a plurality  
2 of rib members.

1 11. The pallet of claim 8, wherein the first and second plurality of cross-ribs are  
2 attached by a welding process.

1 12. The pallet of claim 8, wherein the bottom surfaces of the post members and  
2 support members are co-planar.

1 13. The pallet of claim 8, further comprising at least one reinforcement member  
2 extending between the first deck and second deck.

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1 <sup>B1</sup> 14. The pallet of claim 13, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the first  
2 <sup>on 4</sup> deck and the upper surface of the second deck have at least one channel formed  
3 therein for receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

1 15. A pallet assembly comprising:  
2 an upper deck portion having a first mating cross-ribbed surface, and a load  
3 surface opposite the first mating ribbed surface; and  
4 a lower deck portion having a second mating ribbed surface defined by a  
5 plurality of rib members, a lower surface opposite the second mating ribbed surface,  
6 and a plurality of generally parallel legs extending downwardly from the lower surface  
7 to form a unitary construction therewith, the legs spaced apart from each other to  
8 define pallet openings therebetween, the legs having at least one post member within  
9 which some of the plurality of rib members extend to a bottom surface of the at least  
10 one post member, and a foot portion extending across a bottom of the at least one post  
11 member and forming a unitary construction therewith, wherein the first and second  
12 mating ribbed surfaces are mounted to each other for securing the upper deck portion  
13 and lower deck portion together.

1 16. The pallet of claim 15, wherein the foot portion has a foot upper surface and  
2 a foot lower surface, wherein one of the foot upper and foot lower surfaces includes  
3 a plurality of foot rib members.

1 <sup>pub</sup> 17. The pallet of claim 14, wherein one of the first and second mating ribbed  
2 <sup>AD</sup> surfaces has a locating member <sup>31</sup> projecting therefrom, and the other of the first and  
3 second mating ribbed surfaces has a recess formed therein for receiving the locating  
4 member therein to aid in aligning the upper and lower decks.

1 <sup>B1</sup> 18. The pallet of claim 15, wherein the first and second mating ribbed surfaces are  
2 <sup>corx</sup> attached by a welding process.

1 19. The pallet of claim 15, further comprising at least one reinforcement member  
2 extending between the upper deck portion and lower deck portion.

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20. The pallet of claim 15, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the upper deck portion and the upper surface of the lower deck portion have at least one channel formed therein for receiving a reinforcement member therein.

21. A pallet for supporting goods comprising:

a top deck member having an upper surface upon which said goods are supported, and a lower surface having a plurality of first cross-rib members forming first partial box-beam sections; and

a bottom deck member having an upper surface having a plurality of second cross-rib members forming second partial box beam sections and corresponding generally to the first cross-rib members, the first and second cross-rib members attached to form box-beam sections between the top deck and bottom deck, the bottom deck member further including a plurality of runners projecting downwardly from the upper surface in a unitary construction and extending transversely across the pallet in a generally parallel orientation and having a lower surface, the runners further having a plurality of upright members and support members extending between the upright members and integrally formed therewith in a unitary construction, wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members extend from the upper surface of the bottom deck to the lower surface of the runners.

22. The pallet of claim 21, wherein the plurality of first and second cross-rib members are attached by a welding process.

23. The pallet of claim 21, further comprising at least one reinforcement member extending between the top deck and bottom deck.

24. The pallet of claim 23, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the upper deck portion and the upper surface of the lower deck portion have at least one channel formed therein for receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

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- 1 25. A pallet:  
2 a first deck member having first mating surface having a plurality of first  
3 cross-rib members forming first partial box-beam sections; and  
4 a second deck member having a second mating surface having a plurality of  
5 second cross-rib members forming second partial box beam sections and  
6 corresponding generally to the first cross-rib members, the first and second mating  
7 surfaces attached to form box-beam sections between the first deck member and  
8 second deck member, the second deck member further including a plurality of runners  
9 projecting downwardly from the second mating surface in a unitary construction and  
10 extending transversely across the second deck member in a generally parallel  
11 orientation, the runners further having a plurality of post members and support  
12 members extending between the post members and integrally formed therewith in a  
13 unitary construction, wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members extend  
14 between the second mating surface and a lower portion of the runners.